(c) whether any steps have been taken to explore new markets for these products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Details of exports of cashew, coir products, spices and other agricultural products for the last three years are given in Statement.

(c) and (d). There has been enhanced exports of non-traditional items such as floriculture products, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed fruits and juices and meat preparations to new destinations in Middle East Countries, Western Europe and Japan. Steps taken to explore new markets for Indian agricultural products include brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets, sending sales-cum-study teams and participation in the international fairs/exhibitions.

STATEMENT

(Qty. in tonnes)

(Value in US$ Million)

	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1. Cashew	68968	333.27	76897	396.40	97792	368.06
2. Spices	185082	181.38	154954	194.99	211515	234.96
3. Other Agricultural Products	-	1981.19	-	1802.27	-	3587.42
4. Coir & Coir Mfrs	-	41.41	-	55.02	-	62.94

Sources, DGCI&S, Calcutta

Survey for Rubber Plantation in NE Region

1904. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rubber Board has conducted any survey for rubber plantation in the North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for the development of rubber plantation in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Rubber Board had conducted an exploratory survey to assess the area available for rubber plantations in the North-Eastern Region. As per the survey, 4.5 lakh hectares are available for rubber cultivation, details of which state-wise, are given below:

(in ha.)

State	*Area Available*
Assam	200000
Tripura	100000
Meghalaya	50000
Other N.E. States	50000
Total	450000

(c) In order to promote rubber plantation in the North Eastern region, Government had approved in 1984 a scheme for accelerated Development of rubber plantation for North-East. The area under rubber in this region was 9,250 ha in 1984-85 which has expanded to 35,000 ha now. Rubber Board has reoriented some of its schemes to suit to the special needs of the North-East and also has introduced special schemes for re-settlement of shifting cultivators. In the year 1993-94, a World Bank assisted Rubber Project has also been taken up in this region to develop 6,000 ha of additional area for plantation under rubber and 13,050 ha for re-plantation by 1997-98.

[Translation]

Shortage of Stamp Paper

1905. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of stamp paper of the value of rupees five and ten in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). In view of the capacity constraints, the existing two Security Printing Presses at Nasik and Hyderabad have